

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A valve comprising,
a valve body having a through-bore to permit the flow of gas through the through-bore;
an excessive flow valve comprising a supporting tube (22) having a plurality of struts (24), an axial bore (34) extending through the supporting tube (22), a stem (36) movable axially against a spring (42) within the bore (24) and a disk (40) on a free end of the stem (36);

wherein the excessive flow valve is engaged in a through-bore of the valve body.

2. The valve of claim 1, wherein the supporting tube and the struts are made of a rigid polymer material sufficiently resilient to be snap engaged into the bore of the valve body.

3. The valve of claim 2, wherein the first end of each of the plurality of struts has a projection extending away from the axis of the supporting tube, each said projection being snap engaged in an annular groove in the through-bore of the valve body while a second end of each of

the plurality of struts is engaged against an annular shoulder extending toward the axis of the valve body.

4. The valve of claim 3, wherein the disk is seated on said annular shoulder against the spring when the excess flow valve is closed and drawn away from the annular shoulder by the spring when open.

5. The valve of claim 3, wherein the supporting tube has three struts having a first portion extending radially out from the supporting tube and spaced 120° from one another and a second portion engaged to the first portion which together have a tripod configuration.

6. The valve of claim 1, wherein the valve body is movable within a housing between an open position and a closed position by a handle outside the housing which is engaged to the valve body by a shaft through the housing.

7. The valve of claim 6, wherein the valve body is spherical and is engaged in a spherical cavity within the housing.

8. The valve of claim 1, wherein the disk is engaged in a groove at the free end of the stem.

9. The valve of claim 1, wherein the disk moves on the stem along the axis of the valve body within the plurality of struts.

10. The valve of claim 1 installed in a gas fuel service line immediately upstream from a gas appliance, and constituting the only valve in said gas fuel line immediately upstream from the appliance.

11. The valve of claim 1, wherein the valve body is a pipe.

12. The valve of claim 1, wherein the valve body is a valve housing having means for respectively connecting ends thereof to pipes.

13. The valve of claim 5, wherein the second portion of the strut has a longitudinal length parallel to the axis of the support tube.

14. The valve of claim 13, wherein the projection and the second end engaged against the annular shoulder are both located on the second portion of the struts.